

UNCLASSIFIED  
UNITED STATES  
INFORMATION AGENCY

29-2445  
Part II  
OUTGOING  
TELEGRAM

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DRAFTED BY T. LON RUCOMIERER  
APPROVED BY KING EEBARNED  
NEA JORDON HAFG

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FM USIA WASHDC  
TO RUEHPW/AMCOWILL PESHALLP 0240  
INFO RUEHNL/EMBASSY POLYMERAD 1007  
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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 USIA 41215

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EO 12356 NVA

SUBJECT: FY 89 COP FOR AFGHANISTAN: POLITICAL  
PROCESSES AND INSTITUTIONS: FINAL EVALUATION  
1. SUMMARY: AN EVALUATION SESSION FOR THE SUBJECT COP WAS  
HELD IN WASHINGTON ON JUNE 16. THE SEVEN PARTICIPANTS  
COMMENTED POSITIVELY ON BOTH THE SUBSTANCE AND ADMINISTRATION  
OF THEIR PROGRAM. THEY COMMENTED ON THE ETHNIC AND RACIAL  
RELATIONS IN THE U.S., POLITICAL PARTY ACTIVITIES, MINORITY  
RIGHTS, AND THE STRUCTURE OF POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS AMONG  
THE SUBSTANTIVE HIGHLIGHTS OF THEIR PROGRAM. THEY WERE ALSO  
PLEASED TO LEARN OF CONTINUED SUPPORT AMONG THE AMERICAN  
PEOPLE FOR THE CAUSE OF A FREE AFGHANISTAN. END SUMMARY  
2. THE GROUP FELT THAT THE INITIAL MEET IN WASHINGTON  
PROVIDED THEM WITH A GOOD FOUNDATION UPON WHICH TO UNDERTAKE  
THEIR EXPLORATION OF AMERICAN POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS DURING  
THEIR TRAVELS AROUND THE U.S. A PANEL DISCUSSION WITH  
ADVOCATES REPRESENTING HISPANIC, AFRICAN-AMERICAN, NATIVE  
AMERICAN, AND HANDICAPPED PERSONS' AGENDAS IMPRESSED THE  
GROUP WITH THE BREADTH OF PARTICIPATION IN THE POLITICAL  
PROCESS IN THE U.S., AND THE WIDE VARIETY OF VIEWPOINTS WHICH  
THIS SYSTEM ACCOMMODATED. THE VISIT TO CHARLOTTEVILLE,  
VIRGINIA AFTER WASHINGTON INCLUDED A SESSION, WITH HOME  
HOSPITALITY, WITH PROF. A.E. DICK HOWARD OF THE UNIVERSITY OF  
VIRGINIA, ONE OF THE MOST RENOWNED CONSTITUTIONAL SCHOLARS IN  
THE U.S. NEXT, IN ATLANTA, THE GROUP EXPLORED ELECTION LAWS  
AND THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT, AND IN SUBSEQUENT STOPS IN  
NEBRASKA AND CALIFORNIA HAD IN-DEPTH EXPOSURE TO STATE  
LEGISLATIVE SYSTEMS. MEETINGS WITH AFGHAN ASSISTANCE  
ORGANIZATIONS IN NEW YORK AND INTERACTION WITH MEMBERS OF  
CONGRESS AND THEIR STAFFS IN WASHINGTON INCLUDING ATTENDANCE  
AT CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON U.S. POLICY TOWARDS AFGHANISTAN  
COMPLETED THE GROUP'S ACTIVITIES.  
3. THE OVERALL IMPACT OF THE GROUP'S EXPERIENCES WAS BOTH  
POSITIVE AND ENLIGHTENING. THEY COMMENTED THAT EXPOSURE TO  
THE U.S. APPROACH TOWARDS ASSURING MINORITY ACCESS TO THE  
POLITICAL SYSTEM WILL BE OF VALUE TO THEM IN ADDRESSING THIS  
ISSUE IN A FREE AFGHANISTAN. PARTICIPANTS WERE SURPRISED AT  
LOW VOTER TURNOUT IN ELECTIONS IN THE U.S., AND THE LACK OF  
PARTY-LINE VOTING BY MOST VOTERS. THEY EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR  
THE CONCEPT THAT THE "WILL AND WISHES OF THE PEOPLE" MUST BE  
ACCOMMODATED IN THE POLITICAL SYSTEM, AND THAT THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF A DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM IS CONTINGENT UPON THE  
RECOGNITION OF PEOPLE'S RIGHTS AND THEIR READINESS TO MAKE  
SUCH A SYSTEM WORK.  
4. THE GROUP EXPRESSED SOME DISAPPOINTMENT CONCERNING THE  
LIMITED TIME AVAILABLE TO THEM. FOUR WEEKS WAS CONSIDERED  
INSUFFICIENT FOR THE AMBITIOUS GOALS WHICH THEY HAD, THE  
LACK OF IN-DEPTH INTERACTION WITH "AVERAGE" AMERICANS, AND IN  
SOME CASES ACCOMMODATIONS AT WHAT THE PARTICIPANTS CONSIDERED  
TO BE UNNECESSARILY "DELUXE," NON-CENTRALLY-LOCATED HOTELS.  
THE PARTICIPANTS HAD ARRIVED EAGER TO INFORM AMERICANS ABOUT

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PAGE 01

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DRAFTED BY E/VGN RJSCHMIEBER  
APPROVED BY E/VG EEBARNES  
NEA JDIXON (INFO)  
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TO RUEHPH AMCONSUL PESHAWAR 2241  
INFO RUEHIL AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 3656  
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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 USIA 41319

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THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN, AND WHILE SOME OPPORTUNITIES TO DO SO AROSE IN THE PROGRAM, THESE WERE NOT SUFFICIENT TO SATISFY THE GROUP. THIS DISAPPOINTMENT TO MEMBERS OF THE GROUP REFLECTS WHAT IS PROBABLY AN INEVITABLE TENSION BETWEEN THE AGENDA OF IV PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS (WHO OFTEN ARE EAGER TO DISSEMINATE INFORMATION TO AMERICAN AUDIENCES) AND THE AGENDA OF THE POST AND E/V WHICH IS TO HAVE THE PARTICIPANTS GAIN INFORMATION ABOUT AND FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCE OF THE U.S.) CONCERNING THE COST AND LOCATION OF HOTELS. THESE ARE OFTEN SELECTED TO ASSURE SAFE AND SECURE ACCOMMODATIONS TO PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS. THIS SOMETIMES REQUIRES THE CHOICE OF NON-CENTRAL, RELATIVELY HIGH-COST HOTELS, A FACT WHICH THE PARTICIPANTS PROBABLY COULD NOT FULLY APPRECIATE.

5. IN SPITE OF SOME INITIAL RESERVATIONS, THE GROUP WAS PLEASED WITH THE INCLUSION OF HOME HOSPITALITY IN THE PROGRAM. MOREOVER, THEY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE HAD MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO INTERACT WITH THE AFGHAN IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY IN THE U.S.

6. E/VGN WAS EXTREMELY PLEASED WITH THE CALIBER AND SERIOUSNESS OF THE PARTICIPANTS IN THIS PROJECT. WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONDUCTING ADDITIONAL PROJECTS ON THIS IMPORTANT TOPIC IN THE FUTURE. THE PROJECT WAS THE SUBJECT OF A WIRELESS FILE ITEM (WESA 532) ON JUNE 16. THE PARTICIPANTS WERE INTERVIEWED DURING THEIR VISIT TO NEBRASKA BY THE "OMAHA WORLD HERALD". A COPY OF THIS INTERVIEW, WHICH APPEARED ON JUNE 11, IS BEING FORWARDED TO POST. WE ARE ALSO FORWARDING TO THE POST CERTIFICATES OF PARTICIPATION FOR PRESENTATION TO THE PARTICIPANTS. REGARDS. (E/VGN)

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